THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The allotment of institutional land is made by Delhi Development Authority (DDA) in terms of provision of the Delhi Development Authority (Disposal of Developed Nazul Land) Rules, 1981 as per rates approved by Government from time to time on the recommendations of the Authority. In so far as allotment of land for institutional purposes by Land & Development Office (L&DO) is concerned, the rates are fixed directly by the Central Government.

There has been no revision in the rates fixed for allotment of land for institutional purposes by L&DO since 1998-99. However, in respect of land allotted by DDA for institutional purposes, the rates have been revised from time to time based on the recommendation of the Authority. The last such revision was approved by Government for the year 2004-05. For the year 2005-06, the Authority has recommended further revision in respect of institutional zonal variant rates. This revision has been recommended taking into account the level of development, the trend of market rates of residential and commercial properties and the need to reduce the gap between market price and institutional rates.

Processing time for Visas

*86. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that US State Department and Department of Homeland have announced a number of steps to expedite the processing time for visas;

(b) whether it is also a fact that US propose to issue student visas up to 120 days ahead of academic session; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) The Government is aware that

on 17 January, 2006, the US Department of State and Department of Homeland Security announced measures to speed up the processing of US visas. It is Government's understanding that to decrease the waiting time for visa appointments for travellers, American Embassies and Consulates have now established procedures to expedite the processing of business visas and are working closely with local American Chambers of Commerce in many countries to expedite the visa process for *bona fide* business travellers.

(b) and (c) Government is also aware that US authorities also announced that in coming months, US Homeland and State Department will work to extend the length of time that foreign students can live in the US. Student visas would be issued up to 120 days before classes begin, as compared to 90 days under current regulations, and students would be allowed into the US 45 days in advance of their studies, as compared to 30 days at present.

Reusable space vehicle technology

*87. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization) has developed low-cost reusable space vehicle technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent it would help to make space transport more affordable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, a few investigative studies and experiments have been taken up which might lead to the development of reusable space vehicles technology. It is expected that this, in turn, will make space transport more affordable on account of the reuse of expensive hardware. However, it is difficult to make an assessment of the extent of affordability at this preliminary juncture.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.